SUBJECTS.

Dewan.—Is there any building ?

Member.—There is a site available.

Dewan.—You should apply to the Director.

63. Mahomedan Education in Travancore.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) represented that the Mahomedans of the State were very backward in education. A great obstacle was put in their way in this matter by the Mullahs, who unreasonably persuaded them not to study English. Unless the Government took up the responsibility of uplifting them, their condition would be simply deplorable. The Member suggested (1) that the Government should, as a tentative measure, enforce compulsory education among Mahomedans by opening Elementary Schools in all Mahomedan centres, (2) that Arabic should also be taught in the schools to enable them to understand the Koran, (3) that Mahomedan Inspectors should be appointed over these schools and that they must be directed to deliver lectures during their tours of inspection, about the use of education, trade, agriculture and industry, with a view to create a desire among the Mahomedans for such things, and (4) that encouragement should be given to the poor Mahomedan students by exempting them from the payment of fees and rendering other assistance.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Mahomedan boys should be fully exempted from the payment of fees in schools till the Form VI; a few of them should be selected and sent to England or Bombay annually to prosecute their studies on Government scholarships.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Nominated) said that, in spite of the Government fee concession to Mahomedans, the community did not seek education. This fact showed that the concession should be extended further, so as to encourage education among them. The Member suggested(1) that Mahomedan students should be exempted from the payment of any school fees up to Form VI, and (2) that one at least of the Mahomedan students, educated up to the Vth or the VIth Form, should be annually selected and sent to England or Bombay for training in Mechanical Engineering and other branches of study.

The Member also prayed for an increase of grant to the L. G. E. School at Quilon for Mahomedans and prayed that an additional class be also opened in that school for the teaching of Arabic.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The teaching of English up to the 1st Form in the Lower Grade Elementary Schools in places where Mahomedans are large in number.

Mr. Hussan Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the general rule as applied to other communities in the matter of education should be relaxed in the case of Mahomedans and special concessions and facilities should be afforded to them with a view to encourage education among them. Mahomedan parents as a general rule took no interest whatever in

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